

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and prior listings, of the claims.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) Process for the production of elements made from or comprising a PCM latent heat storing material provided with a sheathing, said process comprising the steps of: providing a PCM latent heat storing material having a phase change temperature in the range of 15 to 40°C, extruding a tube from a synthetic material, feeding said PCM latent heat storing material continuously or intermittently, filling or introducing said PCM latent heat storing material into the freshly extruded tube and forming a granular material by subdividing the PCM-filled tube into a plurality of tube sections having at least one of a length and a cross section in the range of 3.0 to 7.0 mm.
~~or storing the PCM-filled tube~~

29. (previously presented) The process according to claim 28, wherein said PCM-filled tube is stored coiled up.

30. (currently amended) The process according to claim 28, wherein the feeding step comprises feeding the PCM material in liquid or granular form or as a strand in sections or in endless form.

31. (currently amended) The process according to claim 28, wherein the step of filling the tube comprises filling the tube, after leaving the extruder nozzle and prior to entry into a cooling zone, with said PCM material.

32. (previously presented) The process according to claim 28, wherein said filling step comprises filling the tube with PCM in liquid form.

33. (previously presented) The process according to claim 28, further comprising making the tube from a plastic material and constricting the PCM-filled tube at predetermined locations in order to form said tube sections and heat sealing the constrictions.

34. (previously presented) The process according to claim 33, passing the PCM-filled tube through a press and said constricting and heat sealing steps being performed by heated pressing tools.

35. (previously presented) The process according to claim 34, wherein said constricting and heat sealing steps comprise constricting the tube and heat sealing at said predetermined locations one by one using reciprocating pressing tools.

36. (previously presented) The process according to claim 34, further comprising transporting the tube between two counter-revolving endless belts equipped with pressure and heat sealing tools and said constricting and heat sealing steps being performed at the predetermined locations.

37. (previously presented) The process according to claim 34, further comprising transporting the tube between two wheels equipped on a periphery with pressure and heat sealing tools and said constricting and heat sealing steps being performed at the predetermined locations.

38. (previously presented) The process according to claim 32, further comprising severing the PCM-filled tube sections at narrow points so that ends of the tube sections remain sealed.

39. (previously presented) The process according to claim 28, further comprising manufacturing a granular material consisting of PCM-filled pockets from a strand of separated tube sections.

40. (previously presented) The process according to claim 28, further comprising affixing the PCM-filled tube sections individually or interconnected as a strand to a carrier

41. (previously presented) The process according to claim 40, wherein said affixing step comprises affixing the PCM-filled tube sections individually or interconnected as a strand to one of a plastics non-woven fabric, a rigid plastics foil, and a flexible plastics foil.

42. (previously presented) The process according to claim 41, further comprising arranging the tube sections parallel

side-by-side on the non-woven fabric or on the rigid or flexible foil.

43. (previously presented) The process according to claim 28, further comprising arranging and fixing the PCM-filled tube sections between a non-woven fabric and a film.

44. (previously presented) The process according to claim 43, further comprising bringing an endless non-woven fabric and an endless strand of PCM-filled tube sections together in a nip of a roller pair, interconnecting said fabric and said endless strand in said nip, and coating the tube filled sections with the film from an extruder nozzle on a side facing away from the non-woven fabric.

45. (previously presented) The process according to claim 43, further comprising drawing the film over the tube sections up to the non-woven fabric and fixing the film on the non-woven fabric between adjacent tube sections.

46. (previously presented) The process according to claim 43, wherein the non-woven fabric brings together tube sections individually fed from a hopper in a nip of a roller pair and further comprising coating the tube sections in the nip with the film from an extruder nozzle and fixing the film between the tube sections by adhesively bonding the film to the non-woven fabric.

47. (currently amended) An element comprising a latent heat storing PCM material denoted as PCM, having a phase change temperature in the range of 15 to 40°C, said element being

manufactured from an endless ~~PCM-filled~~ tube filled with said PCM material, said tube being made of a synthetic material ~~as~~ which provides a tear-resistant, impervious and diffusion-proof sheathing, and being designed as a section of a strand to be subdivided into sections as finished or semi-finished product, said tube being subdivided into a plurality of tube sections so as to form a granular material with each said section having at least one of a length and a cross section in the range of 3.0 to 7.0 mm, and wherein ~~the~~ each said section forms an individually separated and sealed element.

48. (currently amended) The element according to claim 47, wherein the PCM-filled tube is constricted and heat sealed at predetermined intervals in order to form said tube sections ~~forming~~ and to form a coherent strand.

49. (currently amended) The element according to claim 48, wherein the tube sections form a plurality of granular material ~~consisting of~~ PCM-filled pockets.

50. (previously presented) The element according to claim 47, wherein the PCM-filled tube sections individually or forming a continuous strand are affixed to a carrier

51. (previously presented) The element according to claim 50, wherein said carrier is one of a non-woven fabric of plastics, a flexible plastics foil, and a rigid plastics foil.

52 - 53. (cancelled)

54. (currently amended) The element according to claim ~~52~~ 47, wherein said phase change temperature is in the range of 20 - 35°C.

55. (currently amended) The element according to claim 47, wherein the sheathing is flexible and permits shape variations of the elements consisting of said PCM material in a pulverised, granular, liquid or paste-like state.

56. (previously presented) The element according to claim 55, wherein the sheathing is balloon-like.

57. (previously presented) The element according to claim 55, wherein the sheathing is tubular.

58. (previously presented) The element according to claim 47, wherein the sheathing is multi-layered.

59. (currently amended) The element according to claim 47, wherein the PCM material possesses a latent heat of at least 50KJ/kg.

60. (currently amended) The element according to claim 47, wherein the PCM material consists of a paraffin mixture.

61. (previously presented) The element according to claim 60, wherein the paraffin mixture is selected from the group consisting of eicosane, nonadecane and oktadecane.

62. (currently amended) The element according to claim 47, wherein the PCM material is selected from the group consisting of a salt and a salt hydrate.

63. (currently amended) The element according to claim 62, wherein the PCM material is a salt hydrate selected from the group consisting of calcium chloride hexahydrate and lithium nitrate-trihydrate.